

Serial No. N/A
Preliminary Amendment dated December 2, 2003
In Rely of N/A

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-18(cancelled).

19(original). A manhole having an openable and closable manhole cover, comprising:

- a) a manway defining the manhole;
- b) the manhole cover being hingedly attached to the manway;
- c) the manhole cover including a hinge frame assembly;
- d) a seal provided on the manway;
- e) a pin provided for securing the manhole cover to the manway;
- f) a locking and sealing assembly being provided adjacent to the cover; and
- g) the locking assembly including a locking and sealing element for engaging the cover with the seal for locking and sealing the manway.

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20(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 19,
wherein:

a) the locking and sealing element includes a threaded locking post, the threaded locking post being moveable relative to the hinge frame assembly and the cover for locking and sealing the cover with the seal.

21(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 19,
wherein:

a) a groove is provided in the seal, the groove being configured for receiving a rim of the manhole cover.

22(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 21,
wherein:

a) the pin is provided between the hinge frame assembly and the manway, and the pin secures the hinge frame assembly to the manway.

23-26(cancelled).

27(new). A manhole as in claim 19, wherein:

a) a mounting flange is provided adjacent the manhole cover.

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28(new). A manhole as in claim 27, wherein:

- a) a bolting flange is provided adjacent the manway.

29(new). A manhole as in claim 28, wherein:

- a) a gasket is mounted between the bolting flange and the mounting flange.

30(new). A manhole as in claim 28, wherein:

- a) the mounting flange is bolted to the bolting flange.

31(new). A manhole having an openable and closable manhole cover, comprising:

- a) a manway defining the manhole;
- b) the openable and closable manhole cover being movably attached relative to the manway;
- c) a hinge provided between the manhole cover and the manway; and
- d) a blind flange provided adjacent the hinge, the blind flange being configured for being attached to a bolting flange of one of the manway and an existing manway.

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32(new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

a) an existing manway includes a tank-installed manway of the type providing access to the interior of a tank; and

b) the blind flange is attachable to a bolting flange of a tank-installed manway of the type providing access to the interior of a tank.

33(new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

a) a seal is provided for creating a leak proof joint between the cover and a cover receiving surface when the cover is in a closed position.

34(new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

a) a gasket is mounted between the blind flange and a bolting flange of an existing manway.

35(new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

a) the blind flange is boltable to a bolting flange.

36(new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

a) the mounting flange is weldable to a bolting flange.

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37(new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

a) the openable and closable manhole cover is an outwardly opening manhole cover.

38(new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

a) a seal is provided on the manway; and
b) a groove is provided in the seal, the groove being configured for receiving a rim of the openable and closable cover.

39(new). Manhole as in claim 31, wherein:

a) a pin is provided between the openable and closable manhole cover and the manway, the pin being configured for securing the cover to the manway.

40(new). Manhole as in claim 33, wherein:

a) the hinge includes a hinge frame assembly;
c) a locking assembly is provided; and
b) the locking assembly includes a threaded locking post, the threaded locking post being movable relative to the hinge frame assembly and the openable and closable cover for locking and sealing the cover with the seal.

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41(new). Manhole as in claim 40, wherein:

a) the locking assembly includes a locking post base adjacent the threaded locking post, and the locking post base is fixed relative to the cover.